

Attorney Docket No.: 0190131
Application Serial No.: 09/816,038

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 7-9 and 14, 16, objected to claims 4-6, 10-13 and 17, and allowed claims 18-25. By the present amendment, applicant has amended claims 1, 4-7, 10-12, 14 and 17, and added new claims 26-28. After the present amendment, claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of outstanding claims 1-17 and 26-28 in view of the above amendments and following remarks are requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 7-9 under 35 USC §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 7-9 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,195,127 B1 to Sugimoto ("Sugimoto"). Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include those limitations of dependent claims 4-6 that the Examiner has recited in the statement of reasons for allowability of dependent claims 4-6, namely, "generating a look-up table storing associated image strobe durations and power values including a preparatory image strobe duration and associated preparatory power value." Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that no new matter or issue has been introduced by the present amendment, and claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, applicant has amended independent claim 7 similar to claim 1, as amended, to include those limitations of dependent claims 10-13 that the Examiner has recited in the statement of reasons for allowability of dependent claims 10-13.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 7, as amended, and their respective dependent claims 2-6 and 8-13, are now in condition for allowance.

Attorney Docket No.: 0190131
Application Serial No.: 09/816,038

B. Rejection of Claims 14-16 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-16 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious with respect to Sugimoto and U.S. Patent Number 5,987,261 to Sugahara, et al. ("Sugahara"). Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended independent claim 14 to include those limitations of dependent claim 17 that the Examiner has recited in the statement of reasons for allowability of dependent claim 17, namely "the processor accesses a look-up table in the memory that stores image strobe durations and power values including a preparatory image strobe duration and an associated preparatory power value."

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 14, as amended, and its dependent claims 15-17, are now in condition for allowance.

C. New Claims 26-28

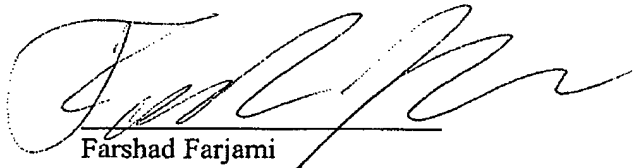
By the present amendment, applicant has added new dependent claims 26, 27 and 28, which depend from independent claims 1, 7 and 14, respectively. Claim 26 recites "the capturing captures a single preparatory image," and claims 27 and 28 recite similar limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 26, 27 and 28, should be allowed at least for the same reasons claims 1, 7 and 14, respectively, are in condition for allowance.

Attorney Docket No.: 0190131
Application Serial No.: 09/816,038

D. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance directed to claims 1-28 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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